THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

13

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

COME ON, EVERY-BODY! GET MOVING! THERE'S NO USE COMPLAINING ABOUT DETAILS— JUST WRITE!

AND OF COURSE, IF I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD, THEN IT'S RIGHT OUT!

BAN (BAM)

13

THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA

ORIGINAL STORY **NAGARU TANIGAWA** MANGA **GAKU TSUGANO** CHARACTER DESIGN: **NOIZI ITO**

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It was not so very long ago, though this story did happen in the past.

In that cottage lived Snow White and seven dwarves.

Deep in the forest of a certain country, there was a small cottage.

Snow White thought so too.

Quite distasteful, don't you think?

Since she was a princess, she would eventually be forced into a political marriage of convenience.

This Snow White had not been chased out of her home, but rather had run away from the castle of her own free will.

Snow White had told the mermaid, "If you ever find anything interesting, you should bring it to me."

At the same time, a mermaid swimming in an ocean near that very same forest saved a prince who'd been thrown from his ship in a shipwreck.

...after she got a kind witch to change her fish-tail into legs.

So the mermaid brought him...

He didn't really do anything fun either...

Evidently, he wasn't the "something interesting" she'd had in mind.

IDIOT

Even upon seeing the prince the mermaid had brought her, Snow White was not especially pleased.

She became sick of his sleeping face.

He just wouldn't wake up.

Still, caring for the unconscious prince was fun enough at first, although as time went on it got duller and duller.

...a message arrived from the castle.

Just as she was beginning to wonder if a good hard slap would wake him up...

!?

"The neighboring empire's armies have surrounded the castle!"

HMM ...

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

IT'S GETTING BETTER, BUT IT STILL NEEDS MORE IMPACT.

IT WAS SO... ASAHINA-ISH.

WAHAHA!

IT'S JUST FULL OF CLICHÉS!

THAT'S NO GOOD.

TIME OUT!

WAIT!

UM, WELL, THE CASTLE'S IN TROUBLE ...

...AND THEN THE PRINCE WAKES UP...

ASKING ME TO WRITE A STORY OF ANY KIND WAS BAD ENOUGH, BUT THIS GENRE...

ASA-HINA-SAN'S WORRIES ASIDE...

...MY REAL PROBLEM WAS MY OWN ASSIGN-MENT.

LET'S JUMP BACK IN TIME JUST A BIT.

WHOOPS, I HAVEN'T EXPLAINED.

GOCHA (CLUTTER)

NOT EVEN YUKI KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

WE'VE BEEN GOING CRAZY SEARCHING FOR THE OLD NEWSLETTERS THE LITERATURE CLUB PUT OUT.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ...?

SO EVERY-BODY PICK ONE!

I SHALL BROOK NO COM-PLAINTS!

恋愛小説

PAPER: LOVE STORY

THEN WE'LL PUT 'EM IN THE NEWS-LETTER.

YOU WILL WRITE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE PAPER.

GET YOUR BUTT IN THE CHAIR AND WRITE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

COULD I POSSIBLY RE-DRAW ...?

HARUHI ...

I JUST WANT TO ASK.

A FAIRY TALE IS FOR CHILDREN, RIGHT?

I GOT "FAIRY TALE."

IT SAYS... "MYS-TERY."

幻想ホラー

SUCH A THING WOULD'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO WRITE.

I'M JUST GLAD I DIDN'T GET "LOVE STORY."

PAPER: FANTASY HORROR

YOU'RE JUST BEING LAZY.

I GUESS I'M GOING MULTI-MEDIA.

THEY WERE BOTH SCE-NARIOS I WROTE MYSELF, ANYWAY.

I'LL JUST NOVELIZE THE MYSTERIES FROM LAST SUMMER AND THIS WINTER.

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ON MY NERVES?

SO A MYSTERY'S NOT HARD, THEN?

HARUHI.

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO WRITE?

OH, I'LL WRITE SOME-THING.

BUT I HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT JOB. LISTEN...

...YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO DIRECT EVERY-THING.

AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO FOR YOU.

BAN (SMACK)

ARMBAND: EDITOR

AFTER THAT, WE SUDDENLY BEGAN ENGAGING IN VERY LITERATURE CLUB-LIKE ACTIVITIES.

...SO THAT'S HOW IT WENT.

SHE CHECKED OUT A PILE OF BOOKS FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND SCRIBBLED FURIOUSLY...

IT WAS ASAHINA-SAN WHO RAN BRAVELY AT THE FORE.

...AND COMIC PANELLING WITH THE MANGA CLUB.

HALFWAY THROUGH, HARUHI MADE HER ADD ILLUSTRATIONS, SO SHE STUDIED SKETCHING...

Things were bad.

AND NOW WE HAVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE TALE.

YOU MAY FIND IT INTERESTING TO TRY TO GUESS WHICH PARTS WERE ADDED BY HARUHI.

Snow White left the forest, taking the seven dwarves with her.

They went to a steep and craggy mountain...

...where there lived a military tactician who had become a hermit.

He refused to see anyone unless they visited him three times.

But Snow White ordered her dwarves to capture him, and she appointed him her Chief of Staff.

SURE, WHY NOT.

He swore his loyalty.

Snow White's party of nine descended the mountain.

They were bound for the castle.

They defeated the Imperial ambush forces one by one, winning a series of victories in various locations.

Then she recaptured the castle and eliminated the retreating Imperial forces...

She continued her counter-attack and toppled the Empire...

BOOM BOOM (BOOM)

...then went on to conquer the rest of the nations of the continent.

What a surprise.

Snow White grabbed an apple that a visiting bear had brought.

The mermaid had cared for the prince that whole time.

Oh!

The prince opened his eyes three days later.

DOUKUN (YAWNING)

"Just how long are you gonna sleep? Wake up!"

But I'm sure that everyone lived happily ever after.

I think that would be nice.

Nobody knows what happened after that.

TAKE IT EASY, TANIGUCHI.

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS THE "TWELVE-SUBJECT STUDY GUIDE COLUMN" I'VE GOT TO WRITE.

WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO WRITE "A FASCINATING SLICE-OF-LIFE ESSAY" IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THE SENSE OF DESPERATION IN IT WAS VERY CLEAR.

THAT WAS ITS BEST QUALITY, FRANKLY.

HEY.

...ALONG WITH TSURUYA-SAN AND THE COMPUTER CLUB PREZ WERE GIVEN DEADLINES THAT HARUHI HAD DETERMINED.

SO THESE TWO...

KIRAN (GLINT)

SHE ASSERTED THAT THE NUMBER OF PAGES THE FOUR OF US HAD PRODUCED WAS INSUFFICIENT, AND MOREOVER LACKED VARIETY, AND RESORTED TO RECRUITING OUTSIDE WRITERS.

HARUHI WAS ENGAGING IN SURPRISINGLY EDITOR-LIKE ACTIVITIES.

PERAN (FLUTTER)

HEY...

...THIS IS THE MANUSCRIPT THAT YUKI TURNED IN YESTERDAY.

I READ IT, BUT IT'S KIND OF WEIRD.

LENGTH-WISE, IT'S BARELY A SHORT STORY.

IT'S GOT A FANTASY FEEL TO IT, AND I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT HORROR. I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO EXPECT.

HERE WE GO.

"UNTITLED 1"
YUKI NAGATO
"I HAVE NO

"NOW THEN, SHALL WE GO?"

IT WAS TRUE.

"WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?"

"WE CAN GO ANYWHERE."

HER STRIDE WAS FAST, AND SHE SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS ALIVE

WHERE WAS I TRYING TO GO?

WHERE WAS I?

WHY WAS I HERE?

BUT ALL I COULD DO AS I STOOD THERE WAS LOOK INTO HER DARK EYES.

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.

"WEREN'T YOU THINKING OF GOING TO XXXX?"

WHEN I HEARD HER WORDS, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD MY PURPOSE.

YES.

THAT WAS WHERE I WAS TRYING TO GO. WHY HAD I FORGOTTEN?

IT WAS THE REASON FOR MY EXIS-TENCE.

IT WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

"WELL, THAT'S SETTLED, THEN.

"GOOD-BYE."

THE GIRL DISAPPEARED, AND I REMAINED. PERHAPS SHE [illegible] TO WHERE SHE BELONGED.

JUST AS I WAS TRYING TO [illegible] TO WHERE I BELONGED

I STOOD THERE, STILL THE FEELING OF THAT LIGHT ALL AROUND.

THEY WERE ONE OF THE MONSTERS THAT FELL AS SPACE-TIME WAS RESET IN CHECKPOINTS AND RESPAWNS.

THAT INGENIOUS STUFF CONTINUED TO FALL, LIKE OF LIKE COTTON.

THAT WOULD BE MY NAME.

SO I THOUGHT, AND IN THINKING SO, I BECAME A GHOST NO LONGER.

HEY.

IS THIS WHAT FANTASY HORROR LOOKS LIKE THESE DAYS?

BEATS ME ..

BUT... MAYBE YUKI FINDS THIS KIND OF THING SCARY.

I GUESS THERE'S SOME FANTASY THERE, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY NO HORROR.

MYSTERY, FAIRY TALE, LOVE STORY— ONCE YOU'VE DONE THOSE, YOU'VE GOTTA GO WITH HORROR.

OH YEAH?

WHAT ABOUT SCI-FI?

I ADDED "FANTASY" BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK HORROR BY ITSELF WOULD BE MUCH FUN.

I DIDN'T WANT TO EVEN READ ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SOMETHING THAT COULD TERRIFY NAGATO?

UGH...

...BUT I HAD TO ADMIT, SHE HAD A POINT.

I JUST WANTED TO MISMATCH THE WRITING PROJECTS AS MUCH AS I COULD.

YUKI'D BE GREAT AT SCIENCE FICTION, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN, WOULD IT?

I WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF CRAZY THING YOU'D COME UP WITH.

KOON (DOONG)

KIIN (DIING)

I REALLY HOPED EITHER YOU OR MIKURU WOULD DO THE MYSTERY.

YOU'RE JUST PREJU-DICED.

YOU'RE TICKING ME OFF.

SO IT PAINED ME, BUT I HAD TO DITCH IT.

BUT IN SCI-FI, YOU CAN PRETTY MUCH GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING.

IF WE DON'T GET AT LEAST ONE READABLE STORY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT OUT A NEWS-LETTER.

AT LEAST KOIZUMI GOT THE MYSTERY.

HEY!

THAT COULD BE FUN!

IPPON (SMACK)

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THINKING OF DOING THIS AGAIN.

IF ALL WE DO IS SHOW OFF HOW WEIRD WE ARE, THE READERS WILL VANISH.

GEEZ.

I BETTER NOT GET ATTACKED BY SOME NAMELESS COSMIC HORROR.

BAN (BAM)

THERE'S MORE TO YUKI'S STORY.

READ THE SECOND AND THIRD PAGES.

"UNTITLED 2"

YUKI NAGATO

I PERFORMED THAT FUNCTION FOR A LONG SPAN. TIME WAS MEANINGLESS. IN THAT FALSE UNIVERSE, NO ILLUSION HELD ANY MEANING. BUT EVENTUALLY I FOUND MEANING. PROOF OF EXISTENCE.

THE ACT OF SEEING WAS THE ONLY FUNCTION I WAS PER-MITTED.

LIGHT, DARKNESS, INCONSISTENCY, SENSE. I MET EACH, INTERSECTED WITH EACH. I DID NOT HAVE THEIR CAPABILITIES, BUT I MAY HAVE BEEN PERMITTED THEM.

MATTER ATTRACTS MATTER. THAT WAS TRUE AND CORRECT. IT WAS BECAUSE IT POSSESSED A SHAPE THAT I WAS DRAWN IN.

IF I WERE PERMITTED TO, I WOULD HAVE THEM. AS I CONTINUED TO WAIT, WOULD THOSE WONDERS FALL?

THOSE TINY WONDERS.

"UNTITLED 3"
YUKI NASATO
"I AM SORRY I AM LATE."
THE PERSON WITHIN SEEMED TO BE A GIRL.

"THE PRESENTATION HAS NOT YET BEGUN. THERE IS STILL TIME."

"THERE IS TIME. LET US WAIT UNTIL YOU REMEMBER."

I COULDN'T REMEMBER.

I WAS NERVOUS.

WHAT WOULD I PRESENT?

I TRIED TO REMEMBER.

THE PRESENTATION.

I REMEMBERED ONE THING.

JUST ONE THING.

GOOD OLD NAGATO HAD WRITTEN SOMETHING TOTALLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS A STORY OR A POEM OR WHAT.

THIS WAS A TOUGH ONE.

MAYBE THAT STUFF ABOUT THE GHOST AND THE COFFIN IS A METAPHOR FOR SOMETHING.

I DON'T THINK YUKI JUST WROTE THIS WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT.

I THINK SHE'S REALLY REVEALING SOMETHING ABOUT HERSELF HERE.

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE JUST A POEM.

IN ANY CASE, WRITING HAD TO COME FROM WITHIN.

SETTING ASIDE THE MATTER OF WHETHER THAT APPLIED TO NAGATO...

...WHAT THE HELL WAS I SUPPOSED TO WRITE?

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE YOU THE PROTAGONIST OF MY STORY!

I'LL PASS ON THAT, THANK YOU.

YOU DON'T NEED TO OVER-THINK IT.

JUST WRITE HOW THINGS ARE.

YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING?

HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN CAPTIVE TO FEELINGS OF LOVE?

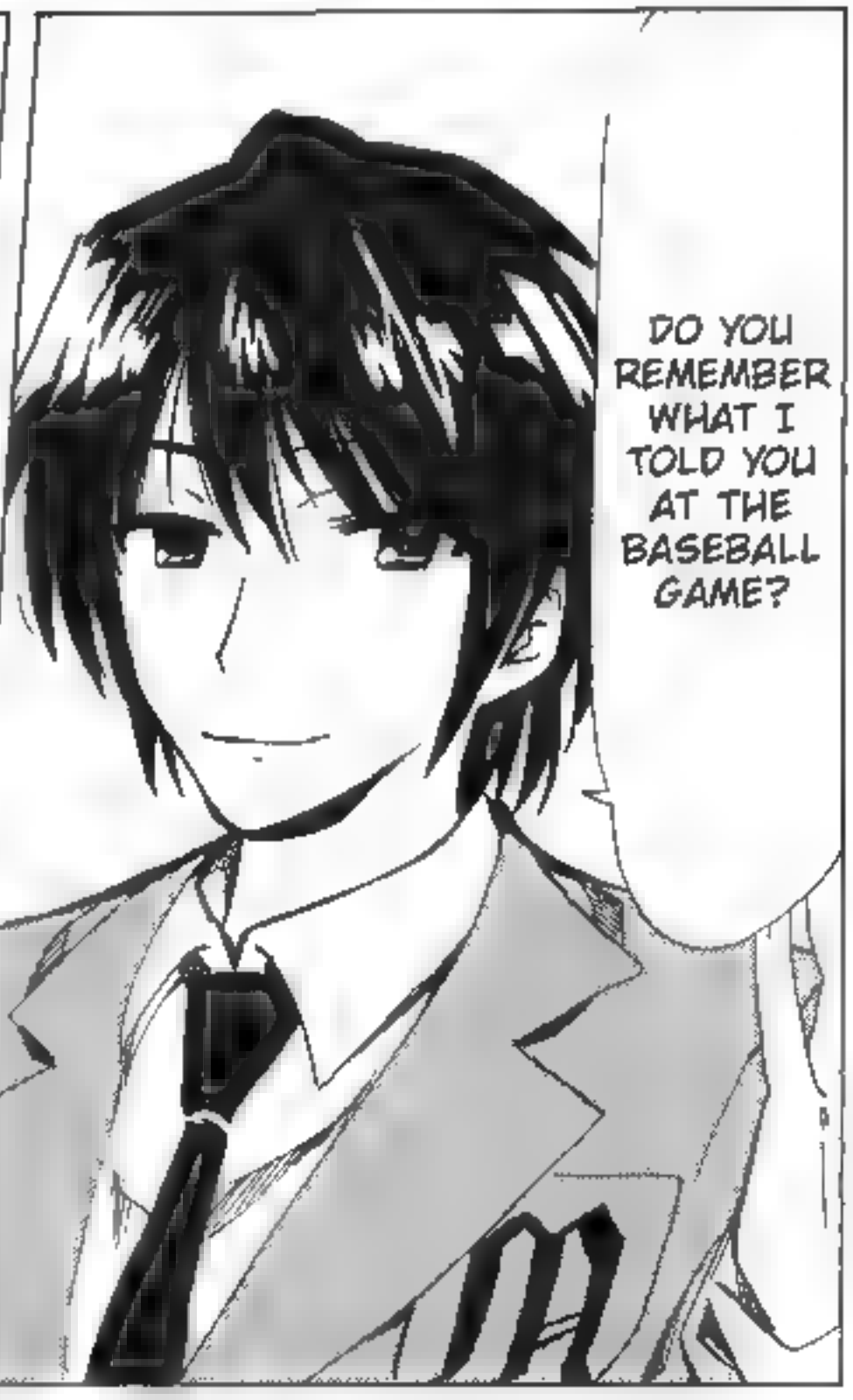
NEVER GONE OUT WITH A GIRL?

...SAY...

YOU'RE CONSTANTLY TALKING ABOUT POINTLESS STUFF.

AM I SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL?

PERHAPS I SHOULD REMIND YOU.



DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU AT THE BASEBALL GAME?

DURING THAT GAME...

...I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE BATTING FOURTH BECAUSE SUZUMIYA WISHED IT.

...

THAT AGAIN.

YES.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT HERE IS NO COINCIDENCE EITHER.

SHE WISHES TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR ROMANTIC HISTORY.

PAPER: LOVE STORY

THAT IS WHY YOUR GENRE IS "LOVE STORY."

THE FACT THAT THE ASSIGNMENT WASN'T A "MEMOIR OF YOUR ROMANTIC EXPERIENCE" IS PROOF THAT SUZUMIYA HERSELF IS A BIT HESITANT.

HESI-TANT?

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A HESITANT BONE IN HER BODY.

I AM SPEAKING OF HER HEART.

DESPITE HER EXTERIOR, SUZUMIYA IS WELL AWARE OF THAT FINE LINE.

PERHAPS UNCON-SCIOUSLY, BUT STILL.

IN WHICH CASE, IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPRESSIVE.

SHE HAS NEVER ONCE DONE ANYTHING THAT WOULD TRAMPLE ON OUR HEARTS.

CERTAINLY NOT TO ME, ANYWAY.

AH, I'VE STRAYED A BIT FROM MY POINT.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, SUZUMIYA WANTS YOU TO WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR VIEWS ON LOVE.

AND INCIDENTALLY, I DO AS WELL.

WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT EPISODE?

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, THERE WAS A GIRL YOU GOT ALONG WITH QUITE WELL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, THERE WAS A GIRL YOU GOT ALONG WITH QUITE WELL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WHY NOT WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT EPISODE?

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, SUZUMIYA WANTS YOU TO WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR VIEWS ON LOVE.

AND INCIDENTALLY, I DO AS WELL.

"THAT" WASN'T THAT KIND OF STORY.

HE WAS LEAVING AN IMPORTANT DETAIL OUT.

A LOVE STORY?

CELEBRATED NEW RELEASE IS NOW AVAILABLE!
MEGA-LAUNCH!
大大大大創刊!!
SIGNING NOW
YOU GUYS, YUKI'S ALREADY TURNED HERS IN!
NONE OF YOU CAN LEAVE UNTIL YOU'RE FINISHED!
Writings
C'MON OVER!

WHAT THE HELL IS AN "INTER-ESTING SLICE-OF-LIFE ESSAY"?

HEADBAND: TRAINING

SUZU-MIYA-SAN...

...ISN'T TWELVE COLUMNS A BIT TOO MUCH?

YOU SHOULD WRITE THIS.

KYON, LISTEN... SLICES OF YOUR LIFE ARE WAY MORE INTEREST-ING, ANYWAY.

ZUBISH! (JAB)

FOL-LOW HER LEAD!

SO...

WHAT ABOUT THE COM-PUTER CLUB?

HA-HA, SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

RIGHT, I'LL HAVE IT IN BY THEN!

WHEN'S THE DEAD-LINE?

STOP COM-PLAINING!

TSURUYA-SAN WAS ON BOARD RIGHT AWAY.

TOSA (THMP)

I ASKED THEIR BEST ARTIST TO DRAW OUR COVER.

THEN THERE'S THE ART CLUB!

ウフフフ!
ウフフフ!

THEY'RE IN, OF COURSE.

"GAME-BUSTING PRIMER! REVIEWS OF ALL THE LATEST GAMES!"

I RELATED HER STORY FIRST, BUT AT THIS POINT, SHE WASN'T DONE WITH IT YET.

ASAHINA-SAN'S EXPRES-SION WAS A PAINED ONE.

WHAT FEELING HAD LED HER TO WRITE SUCH A STRANGE STORY?

I COULD NOT HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT HER.

NAGATO WAS READING AS USUAL.

WITH THE AIR OF SOMEONE WHO'S DONE WITH HER WORK.

WERE THE GHOST AND THE PHANTOM GIRL THE SAME CHARACTER?

THE OTHER CHARACTERS WERE THE GHOST, THE MAN, AND THE PHANTOM GIRL.

I WAS SURE THAT THE STORY'S NARRA-TOR WAS NAGATO.

IN ANY CASE, SHE'D PROBABLY USED THE PEOPLE AROUND HER AS MODELS.

I FELT LIKE THE MAN WAS KOIZUMI AND THE GIRL WAS ASAHINA...

NOT THAT I WAS SO SELF-INVOLVED THAT I WANTED TO BE IN IT.

WHICH MEANT THAT HARUHI AND I DIDN'T APPEAR IN THE STORY.

I'D ASK HER ABOUT IT LATER, IF I GOT A CHANCE.

I GUESSED IT WAS BETTER TO SAVE THE ANALYSIS FOR MODERN LITERATURE TESTS.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO TELL ME TO WRITE THAT?

STILL, A LOVE STORY?

TO BE HONEST, I DREAMED OF HAVING A SCHOOL LIFE LIKE THIS.

MORE AND MORE, I THINK OF SUZUMIYA AS A GOD.

A FEW STUDENTS IN AN UNDERDOG CLUB GOING UP AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL...

...IT IS RATHER FUN, IS IT NOT?

COME ON...

WHAT'RE YOU GRINNING AT?

AH, BUT I COULD NEVER MANIPULATE WHICH ASSIGNMENT YOU DREW.

YOU'RE PULLING ALL THE STRINGS HERE... HOW CAN THIS BE YOUR DREAM?

YOU'RE JUST ACTING IN YOUR OWN PLAY.

KUNIKIDA, NAKAGAWA, ALL THOSE GUYS WOULD GET THE WRONG IDEA.

ANYWAY, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF WRITING THAT STORY.

WWW

A DATE YOU WENT ON, OR A GIRL CONFESSING HER LOVE FOR YOU...

YOU'LL NEED TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT, THEN.

THE WHOLE THING JUST DOESN'T MATTER.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER.

SEE, THERE YOU ARE.

BOTH SUZUMIYA AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING THE STORY.

PLEASE DO WRITE IT.

HANG ON A SEC!

ZUI (ZIP)

AH, SO IT'S HAP-PENED, THEN!

I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

THERE WAS NO DATING OR CONFESSING—

IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

...WELL, MAYBE JUST AS A WARM-UP.

IT WAS THE TAIL END OF THE FINAL SPRING BREAK OF MIDDLE SCHOOL...

...JUST BEFORE I WOULD ENTER HIGH SCHOOL.

...AND BEING ASKED TO THE [illegible] BY A BEAMING [illegible]

AT THE TIME, I HAD NOT [illegible] MEETING A STRANGE GIRL...

"IT'S A GIRL!"

I [illegible] NEW LIFE...

MY SISTER PUSHED THE PHONE AT ME AND LEFT.

THAT WAS WEIRD. NORMALLY SHE'D HANG AROUND UNTIL I KICKED HER OUT.

"AH..."

"IT'S ME.

"MIYOKO YOSHIMURA."

IT WAS DEFI-NITELY A GIRL'S VOICE.

I THOUGHT I'D HEARD IT BEFORE...

"...HELLO?

"UM...

HER USE OF HER FULL NAME HAD TRIPPED ME UP.

I'D MET HER MANY TIMES BEFORE.

MIYOKO YOSHIMURA'S NICKNAME WAS "MIYOKICHI."

"OH, IT'S YOU.

"NO, I'M NOT BUSY AT ALL.

"I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT TIME."

"ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?

THE DAY AFTER IS FINE TOO

"BUT IT HAS TO BE BEFORE APR. STARTS

"I'M TOTALLY FREE BOTH DAYS."

NOT AT ALL

I'M SORRY IT'S SO SUDDEN

"TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY

"ARE YOU BUSY?"

"UH... YOU'RE ASKING ME?"

KYU (SQUEAK)

"WITH YOU?"

"YES."

"ME?

"FOR TOMORROW, JUST TOMORROW...

"...WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?"

"THAT'S FINE."

"...SURE.

"JUST THE TWO OF US WOULD BE BEST.

"IS THAT ALL RIGHT?"

I FELT LIKE I COULD SEE HER BOWING AT THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE LINE.

"THANK GOODNESS."

"WELL, THEN, I'LL SEE YOU!"

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS AGREE.

THEN SHE CONFIRMED THE TIME AND PLACE OF OUR RENDEZVOUS, ALL THE WHILE TAKING CARE THAT IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR ME.

(BEEP)

THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GIRL MIYOKICHI WAS.

IF I HADN'T, THERE WAS NO TELLING HOW LONG SHE WOULD'VE KEPT THANKING ME.

AFTER GIVING HER A VAGUE ANSWER, I HUNG UP.

I THOUGHT ABOUT THE CALM, RESERVED QUALITY OF MIYOKICHI'S VOICE AND WORRIED ABOUT MY OWN LITTLE SISTER'S FUTURE.

※2

THE NEXT DAY CAME.

I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF WRITING ALL THE DETAILS.

IT'S TOO MUCH OF A PAIN.

"GOOD MORNING!"

AND IT'S DEFINITELY NOT MY PERSONAL JOURNAL.

THIS IS A STORY, NOT A BUSINESS REPORT OR A SHIP'S LOG.

"HEY."

IT SUITED HER SLENDER FRAME WELL.

HER BLOUSE HAD A FLOWER PATTERN, AND SHE HAD A PALE BLUE CARDIGAN ON.

SHE HAD A SMALL PURSE ON HER SHOULDER. HER HAIR WAS BRAIDED.

"SURE."

"THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

"...THERE'S SOMEPLACE I'D LIKE TO GO. IS THAT OKAY?"

"UM...

"SURE, I'LL BUY THE TICKETS."

"THERE'S A MOVIE I WANT TO SEE."

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT POLITE...!!"

SHE SMILED SWEETLY.

IS THIS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "PURE AS THE DRIVEN SNOW?"

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!

"I'M THE ONE WHO DRAGGED YOU OUT HERE."

IT WASN'T LIKE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT ANYONE FROM OUR TOWN SEEING US TOGETHER.

IF THEY DID OR WHAT THEY MIGHT THINK DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME.

X 3

WE HEADED TO THE STATION AND GOT ON A TRAIN.

THE MOVIE SHE WANTED TO SEE WAS A MINOR INDIE FLICK PLAYING AT A SMALL THEATER.

SHE SEEMED A BIT NERVOUS.

SHE STAYED THAT WAY RIGHT UP TO THE TICKET BOOTH.

X 5

WE MADE PLEASANT CONVER-SATION ALONG THE WAY...

...ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL, OR MY SISTER.

X 4

YOU SEEM TO BE MOVING RIGHT ALONG.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

UWAH! BACK OFF! NO PEEKING!

SESSE (SCRIBBLE) SESSE

I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR WRITING, MORE SO THAN NAGATO-SAN'S OR ASAHINA-SAN'S.

YOU CAN ALWAYS HEAR THE VOICE OF THE AUTHOR SPEAKING BETWEEN THE LINES.

I LOOK FORWARD TO READING IT.

MY INTEREST IS PIQUED, YOU SEE.

EVEN IF I KILL MYSELF WRITING IT, HARUHI COULD REJECT IT WITH A SINGLE WORD.

I'M NOT USED TO THIS. IT'S STRESSING ME OUT.

THIS IS ABOUT YOUR PAST, AFTER ALL.

I DOUBT THAT SHE WILL.

HOW I PASSED MY DAYS?

WHAT I DID BEFORE I TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL?

FOR EXAMPLE...

...HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT MY PAST?

I'M SURE SHE'LL READ IT WITH GREAT INTEREST.

IT'S A RECORD FROM BEFORE WE ALL MET.

THERE AREN'T ANY PARTICULARLY INTERESTING EPISODES.

MAYBE I'LL WRITE AN AUTO-BIOGRAPHY SOMEDAY.

THAT ALL DEPEND-ED.

IF IT WERE NONFICTION ABOUT THE LIFE OF AN ESPER, SURE.

GIII (CREAK)

OH?

I WAS THINKING OF GIVING YOU A COMP COPY.

DON'T BOTHER.

I'LL PUT YOUR NAME IN THE DEDICA-TION.

HEY, YOU'RE REALLY WRITING.

I'M IM-PRESSED.

WHAT'S THAT?

HEY, EVERY-BODY! MAKING PRO-GRESS?

THESE ARE FINISHED MANU-SCRIPTS!

BAN (BAM)

KO

EVERYBODY WORKED PRETTY HARD.

HAVEN'T GOTTEN TANI-GUCHI'S ...

KUNIKIDA'S ABOUT HALF DONE.

THESE ARE THE ILLUSTRATIONS I ASKED THE MANGA CLUB TO DO.

AND HERE'S THE COVER FROM THE ART CLUB.

ZUSSWIRL! (HEFTY)

HERE'S THE COMPUTER CLUB'S PIECE.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT'S ABOUT, BUT WHO CARES?

THEIR ENTHU-SIASM COMES THROUGH.

PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT VIDEO GAMES WILL LIKE IT.

最新パソコンゲーム完全レ
このゲームぶった切り読
ワイプアウト・ソウル ver4.02
verアップに伴って大幅強化されたのが魅力。
全くジョイ 愛用してたぜ ゲッ
して まった時点でルー や何でもない
詳し とはネットの攻略を参考に
オイ と か、全体的に 重視
つそ 当の話。 や、
面 詰めたときのクラスター

PAPER: REVIEWS OF ALL THE LATEST GAMES! GAME-BUSTING PRIMER! WIPEOUT SOUL VER. 4.02. YOU GOTTA APPRECIATE THE NEW VERSION. FOR ME, THE SERIES' BEST WAS ON MY BELOVED XENOGRAFX 16 BACK WHEN IT WAS A CRAPPY TITLE THAT NOBODY KNEW ABOUT. BUT THESE DAYS, WITH THE BOOSTED POLY COUNT AND PIXEL SHADERS YOU GET WITH A DECENT GRAPHICS CARD, IT'S PRETTY BADASS...

BAAA (RUSH)

HEY, YOUR HANDS STOPPED.

GET BACK TO WRITING!

SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.

IT SEEMED HARUHI HAD FOUND HAPPINESS IN THE PROCESS OF PUSHING THE PUBLI-CATION FORWARD.

ARMBAND: EDITOR, HEADBAND: TRAINING

WE TOOK ON THIS CHALLENGE, AFTER ALL.

THE OUTSIDERS DID THE BEST, SO WE'VE GOT TO WORK HARD TOO.

KII (CREAK)

KON (KNOCK)

KON (KNOCK)

IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO TELL HER THE TRUTH ABOUT THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

HAVING A WORTHY ORGANIZA-TIONAL RIVAL SEEMED TO ENERGIZE HARUHI.

I'M EVEN MORE CONVINCED IT'S WASTED ON THIS CLUB.

THIS IS A NICE ROOM.

YOU'RE INTER-RUPTING OUR WORK. GET LOST.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

BAN (BANG)

EXCUSE ME.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING YOUR CONSTANT FOE OR AN OBSTACLE YOU MUST OVERCOME.

THINK OF IT AS RECONNAIS-SANCE.

PACHIN (SNAP)

YES, MR. PRESI-DENT.

KIMIDORI-KUN, IF YOU PLEASE...

NOT THAT I'M HAPPY.

HEH, THANK YOU!

NO NEED TO THANK ME.

I'M BEGGING YOU.

THEY'RE NEWS-LETTERS PRODUCED BY PREVIOUS LITERA-TURE CLUBS.

WHAT ARE THESE?

FINALLY NOTICED HER EXIS-TENCE, EH?

YES, THIS YEAR.

YOU'RE ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL?

HEY, YOU...

ARMBAND: EDITOR

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, IT'S LIKE WE WERE NEVER REALLY TOGETHER.

IT'S A DISTANT MEMORY.

BUT WE'VE BROKEN UP.

DID YOU WORK THINGS OUT WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

I APPRE-CIATED YOUR HELP.

FOR ONE THING, HARUHI, YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN HER.

NOT THAT I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT.

WELL, YOU'RE YOUNG, THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

"DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU CARE.

HUH, I SEE.

BUT NAGATO ACTED LIKE THIS AROUND EVERYBODY, SO IT WAS HARD TO BE SURE.

AT THIS POINT, IT SEEMED LIKE NAGATO AND KIMIDORI WERE ACTIVELY TRYING TO IGNORE EACH OTHER.

I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT WORRIED.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU.

IT SEEMS YOU'RE DOING A FICTION ANTHOLOGY.

ARE ANY OF YOU EVEN CAPABLE OF WRITING A STORY?

UGH, BE QUIET

WE'VE ALREADY GOT A BUNCH OF MANU-SCRIPTS!

STORIES ARE EASY.

EVEN THIS IDIOT KYON CAN DO IT.

IT IS, HOWEVER, FUTILE.

I CAN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED AT YOUR OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

AND I HATE SMALL-FRIES WHO THINK THEY'RE BIG-SHOTS EVEN MORE!

YOU THINK YOU'RE A REAL BIG-SHOT, HUH?

TOUGH!

I HATE BIG-SHOTS!

YOU JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR STATUS, DO YOU?

HMPH. I AM NOT PARTICU-LARLY IMPORTANT.

BRIGADE CHIEF?

HOW IS IT YOU'VE COME TO SIT IN YOUR SEAT THERE?

IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO BOAST, IT IS HAVING GAINED MY POSITION THROUGH A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC ELECTION.

GRRR...

THE PRESIDENT HAD REAL GUTS.

TO FACE DOWN HARUHI'S SARCASM ...

...I HAD TO ADMIT THAT KOIZUMI'S CHOICE OF PERSONNEL WAS IMPRESSIVE.

I'M ABSOLUTELY NOT MOVING FROM THIS SPOT.

WANT TO KNOW WHY?

YOU CAN'T PROVOKE ME.

I'D LOVE TO.

.....

SUUU (INHALE)

BASA (FLAP)

BASA

BASA

...AND THE SOS BRIGADE IS MINE!

BECAUSE THIS IS THE SOS BRIGADE'S ROOM

...

GUOOOOOO (RUUUMBLE)

グオオ

げんしけん

HUH!?

WE HAVE A GUEST!?

部長

BAN (STOMP)

ARGH, SO IRRI-TATING!

BAN

BAN

PURI (FUME)

PURI

PURI

WHAT DID THAT IDIOT PRESIDENT COME HERE TO DO, ANYWAY!?

WE'RE GONNA MAKE THIS NEWS-LETTER IF IT KILLS US!

AND IT'S GONNA BE GREAT!

THERE'S NOT GONNA BE A SINGLE COPY LEFT, AND WE'RE GONNA TAKE HIM DOWN!

BAN

はぁ!!

SO LONG AS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S ATTENTION IS TURNED TOWARD ORDINARY ACTIVITIES, I CAN STAY AWAY FROM CLOSED SPACES.

FOR MY PART, I AM QUITE SATIS-FIED.

SINCE WHEN ARE WE SELLING THIS THING?

HEY.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET TANGLED UP WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

HOW NICE FOR YOU.

THE REST WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

AND IF IT DOESN'T ...

YOU'RE OVER-THINKING THIS.

WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON NOW IS FINISHING THE NEWS-LETTER.

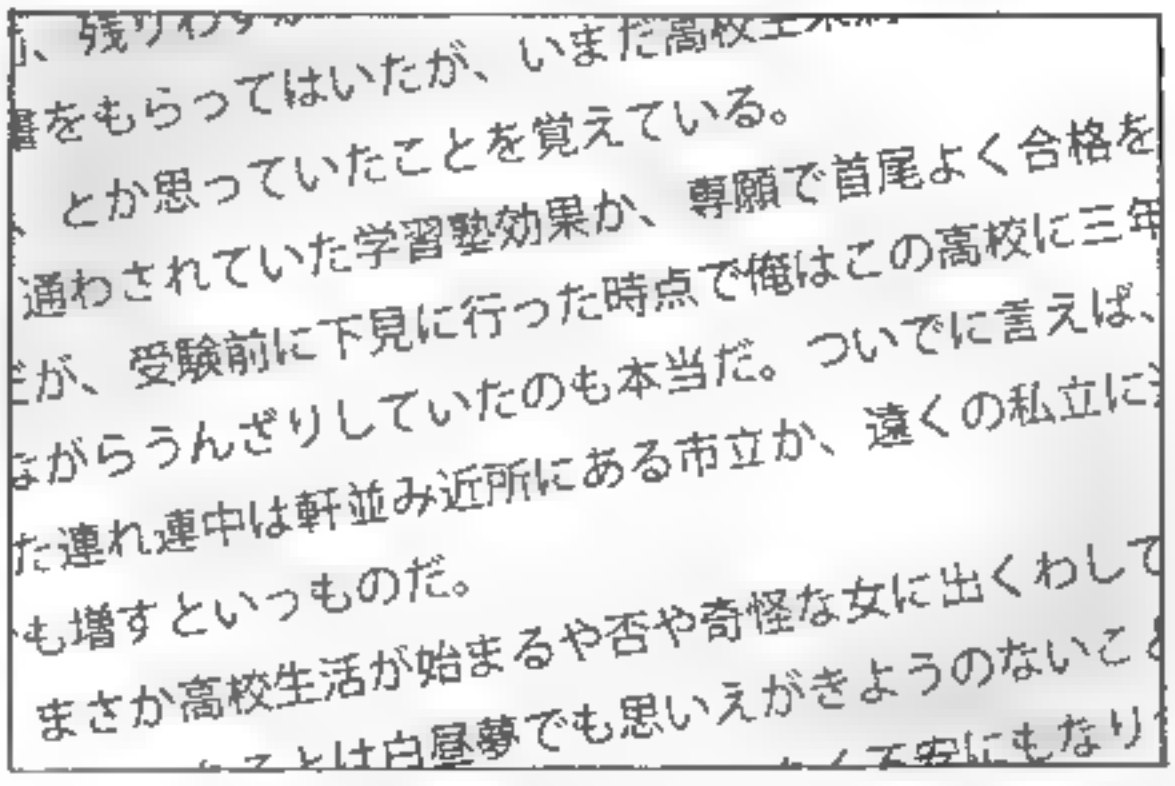
A SIEGE, EH? THAT MIGHT WORK.

...WE'LL SIMPLY PUT A DIFFERENT SCENARIO INTO PLAY.

I WONDERED WHO SHE'D COMPARE KOIZUMI KANBEI TO, MAYBE KURODA?

TSURUYA-SAN HAD COMPARED THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIMA YI.

I PRAYED THAT KOIZUMI DIDN'T INDULGE HIS TASTE FOR SCHOOL INTRIGUE TOO MUCH.



I WAS STARTING TO FEEL LIKE THE LORD OF TAKAMATSU CASTLE AFTER ITS WATER SUPPLY HAD BEEN CUT OFF.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF★FULL SPEED AHEAD! IV : END

SO BACK TO THE STORY OF MIYO-KICHI.

I GUESS IT WAS A LITTLE TRAUMATIC, BUT I GOT OVER IT YEARS AGO.

MY FIRST CRUSH WAS MY OLDER COUSIN, BUT SHE ELOPED WITH SOME WORTHLESS GUY.

I'M NOT PROUD OF IT, BUT NOBODY'S EVER CONFESSED FEELINGS FOR ME, NOR I FOR THEM.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, BUT EVERYBODY'S GOT THE WRONG IDEA.

I CONTINUED MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL STORY THE NEXT DAY, AFTER CLASSES WERE OVER.

HOW FAR HAD I GOTTEN ...?

AH, THAT'S RIGHT. WE'D BOUGHT MOVIE TICKETS ...

TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT REALLY MY FAVORITE GENRE.

AS FOR WHAT KIND OF FILM IT WAS... TURNED OUT IT WAS A GORY, SPLATTER-FEST HORROR FLICK.

EITHER ATTEN-DANCE WAS BAD...

...OR PEOPLE HADN'T ARRIVED YET. IT WAS MOSTLY EMPTY.

DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THAT CALMED ME DOWN.

SHE WOULD GET STARTLED AT THE USUAL STARTLING MOMENTS.

SHE EVEN GRABBED MY ARM (JUST ONCE).

MIYO-KICHI WATCHED QUIETLY.

NOT THAT I FELT PARTICULARLY LET DOWN BY IT.

STILL, IT REALLY WAS A B-MOVIE.

"IT HAD MY FAVORITE ACTOR IN IT."

SHE DRANK THE FILM IN, EVERY BIT AS FOCUSED ON IT AS I'M SURE THE DIRECTOR WOULD HAVE HOPED.

SIGN: FILM IN PROGRESS

"THERE'S A SHOP I'D LIKE TO GO TO, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT."

"ER...

"WANT TO GET LUNCH SOMEWHERE?"

"AH, I SEE.

THE KIND OF PLACE NO GUY WOULD EVER ENTER ON HIS OWN.

IT WAS STYLISH OUTSIDE AND IN.

OUR DESTI-NATION WAS A COZY LITTLE CAFÉ.

"I'LL HAVE THE CAKE SET."

"NEAPOLITAN AND AN ICED COFFEE."

"YOUR ORDER?"

NIKKORI (SMILE)

I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL OUT OF PLACE.

"I'M NOT A BIG EATER."

"NO, I'M FINE.

"YOU- WON'T BE HUNGRY?"

"WILL THAT BE ENOUGH?

...SHE SUDDENLY LOOKED DOWN.

MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING AT HER SO CLOSELY ...

STUFF LIKE HOW I THOUGHT SHE WAS PERFECTLY CUTE THE WAY SHE WAS.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE EMBARRASSING THINGS I SAID ARE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME BREAK INTO A SWEAT.

UGH, I CAN BARELY EVEN WRITE ABOUT IT.

BUT THE TRUTH WAS MIYOKICHI I WAS A PRETTY GIRL.

"I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED YOU OUT, AFTER ALL."

"NO, I REALLY DON'T MIND.

"PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."

BUT SHE WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT AND INSISTED ON PAYING HER OWN SHARE.

I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY TO PAY THE CAFE TAB.

"THERE IS ONE LAST PLACE..."

"....."

"WE DID A MOVIE, AND THE CAFE..."

"SO, WHAT SHALL WE DO NEXT?

THE LAST PLACE WAS MY HOUSE.

I INVITED HER IN...

...WHERE MY LITTLE SISTER SEEMED TO BE WAITING FOR US...

...AND THE THREE OF US PLAYED VIDEO GAMES TO-GETHER.

WHO WAS GOING TO WANT TO READ IT, ANYWAY?

THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE LESS I UNDERSTOOD THE POINT OF WRITING THIS.

I FELT LIKE IT COULD END HERE.

WELL, THEN.

I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WRITING A MYSTERY ...

I WANTED HER TO ENJOY AS PEACEFUL A STUDENT LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

NAGATO [redacted] AT THE CENTER OF THIS EFFORT.

WAS THIS FOR THE LITERATURE CLUB'S SAKE, FOR NAGATO'S SAKE?

I WANTED TO AVOID THE SECOND-STAGE CONFRONTATION WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL THAT KOIZUMI WAS ANTICIPATING SO MUCH.

AND THERE'S ANOTHER PROBLEM.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DIDN'T TRY TO WRITE A MYSTERY.

...ABOUT HOW YOU WENT ON A DATE WITH A CUTE GIRL.

IT'S JUST A LOT OF BRAG-GING...

THERE'S NO LOVE STORY IN THIS.

IT'S RATHER OBVIOUS.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN HARD NOT TO NOTICE ANYTHING.

WAS THERE SOME-THING SUSPI-CIOUS?

YES. THE WHOLE THING.

I DID NOTICE SOME-THING ELSE, THOUGH.

IT WAS KOIZUMI WHO LEFT THE ASTERISKS IN THIS LITTLE AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.

...THE MOST OBVIOUS OF WHICH I'VE MARKED WITH ASTERISKS.

YOU INCLUDED A SERIES OF CLUES ...

YOU'RE A VERY CONSID-ERATE WRITER.

ADD A LINE OR TWO AT THE END.

HERE'S MY ADVICE.

BUT THERE'S NO PUNCH-LINE.

.....

MAYBE I SHOULD.

IT WON'T TAKE MUCH TIME.

JUST TO SHOW ALL YOUR CARDS.

...
WHOOPS
...

VUVUVU
(BZZZ)

SO BEFORE YOU GET CROSS-EXAMINED ...

THERE'S NO WAY SUZUMIYA-SAN WILL MISS SOME-THING THAT I'VE NOTICED.

I DOUBT YOU NEED TO AGONIZE OVER IT TOO MUCH.

WAIT A MINUTE.

WHY DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HARUHI'S REACTION?

I'LL BE OUT FOR JUST A MOMENT.

NO, DON'T WORRY.

I JUST HAVE TO REPORT IN. IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

PASHI
(SNAP)

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE SOME MINOR BUSI-NESS.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE SURPRISED ME.

HE WAS SLICK LIKE THAT.

...BUT I WONDERED IF KOIZUMI WAS MEETING UP WITH SOME GIRL.

IT WASN'T LIKE I'D BEEN INFLUENCED BY MY OWN STORY...

I MIGHT AS WELL WRITE A LITTLE MORE.

JUST A COUPLE EXTRA LINES, LIKE HE SAID.

.....

KATA (CLACK) カタ KATA カタ カタ KATA カタ KATA
IT'S POINT-LESS, BUT WHY NOT?
KATA カタ KATA カタ KATA カタ カタ KATA
IT'S NO GOOD, I JUST WANT TO TRASH IT...
...EVEN IF IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, IT'S STILL EMBAR-RASSING.
GOTTA GET RID OF THE MANU-SCRIPT I SHOWED KOIZUMI...
KASA (RUSTLE) カサッ
GARA (CLATTER) がらっ
TANIGUCHI RAN OFF SOMEWHERE AGAIN.
I GOTTA GET HIM TO WRITE SOMETHING TOMORROW, EVEN IF I HAVE TO TIE HIM TO THE CHAIR.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, KYON.
IF YOU DON'T FINISH SOON ...

WHERE'S THE PUNCH-LINE?

WHAT PUNCH-LINE?

THIS IS THE END?

GU CYANKO

THEY LIVED... HAPPILY EVER AFTER, I GUESS.

WHAT HAP-PENED NEXT?

PAN (SLAP)

IT DOESN'T JUST END LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

"DON'T LIE?" IT'S FICTION!

THE "I" IN THAT STORY IS JUST A CHAR-ACTER! MIYO-KICHI TOO.

GU

GU

GU

GU

U

TELL ME! AND DON'T LIE!

NO WAY.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU'D HAVE TO WRITE SOMETHING THAT YOU'D HEARD FROM SOMEBODY ELSE.

DON CWHAMO

LIAR!

I NEVER FOR A SECOND BELIEVED YOU COULD WRITE A TOTALLY MADE-UP STORY.

WHAT WAS YOUR RELATION-SHIP TO HER!?

MO

CRUMPLED

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.

SO WHO'S MIYO-KICHI!?

SHE'D SOMETIMES COME OVER TO MY HOUSE FOR DINNER, THEN GO HOME.

.....

AH-HAH!

THAT'S ALL?

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE...

DOO (SLAM)

HEY, WAIT...

WHOA!

BA (LEAP)

GIVE IT HERE!

I'M BACK ...

WHA!?

GACHA (CLACK)

GACHA

ASA-HINA-SAN!?

GACHA (SLAM)

C'MON, KYON!

OBEY YOUR EDITOR'S ORDERS!

HON-EST!

GACHA

KAA (BLUSH)

I-I'M SORRY!

I DIDN'T SEE A THING!

GIVE IT!

BA

BA (WHAP)

Incidentally, Miyoko Yoshimura, also known as "Miyokichi," was my sister's best friend and classmate.

At the time, she was a fourth grader in elementary school and was ten years old.

WHAT...

WHAT'S THIS!?

...SHE LOOKED MORE GROWN-UP THAN ASAHINA-SAN, EVEN.

HER HEIGHT, HER BEARING...

LAST YEAR (AND NOW) MIYOKICHI WAS MATURE-LOOKING FOR HER AGE.

...THAT NOBODY WOULD GUESS THAT SHE WAS YOUNGER THAN TWELVE.

SHE KNEW PER-FECTLY WELL, HOW-EVER...

THE FILM WE'D SEEN HAD BEEN RATED PG-12... CHIL-DREN UNDER TWELVE HAD TO BE ACCOM-PANIED BY A GUAR-DIAN.

I WAS FINE, SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN AT THE TIME.

有効期間：＊＊＊＊．＊．＊～＊＊＊＊．＊．＊
作品名：春日ドラゴン一世獄炎
上映日時：＊＊＊＊．＊．＊（＊）
午後：＊＊＊＊

TICKET: THEATER, VALID, TITLE, EXHIBITION DATE

HER PARENTS WERE FAIRLY STRICT AND WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND A SPLATTER-HOUSE B-MOVIE...

...SHE EXPLAINED TO ME.

BUT SHE COULDN'T BRING HERSELF TO GO ALONE.

SHE STILL LOOKS LIKE A GRADE SCHOOL STUDENT.

KOCHIKA

MM

THEN THERE WAS MY SISTER.

SO SHE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

WAS THERE ANYONE SHE COULD GO WITH TO WHOM THE THEATER WOULD SELL TICKETS?

THE FILM WAS ONLY PLAYING THROUGH MARCH.

IF SHE DIDN'T HURRY, IT WOULD END.

MIYO-KICHI WAS ONE OF THOSE FRIENDS.

OF COURSE, DEALING WITH MY SISTER'S FRIENDS WHEN THEY CAME OVER WAS A COMMON OCCUR-RENCE.

I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG PRETTY WELL WITH LITTLE KIDS, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

IF SHE WAS GOING TO A MOVIE, SHE MIGHT AS WELL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE A KID WOULD ALSO HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING INTO.

SHE ALSO CONSIDERED THIS:

THOUGH I WAS JUST A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT MYSELF, SO I WAS A LITTLE HESITANT.

WHICH IS WHY SHE PICKED THE CAFÉ.

GIVE HER FIVE OR SO MORE YEARS, AND SHE'LL BE A RIVAL FOR ASAHINA-SAN.

MIYOKO YOSHI-MURA, "MIYO-KICHI," IS NOW A FIFTH GRADER.

SOON TO BE SIXTH.

HMMM.

SO I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SATISFIED WITH THIS PUNCH-LINE?

NOW THEN, THE EPILOGUE.

THE NEWS-LETTER WAS FINISHED ON TIME.

THE CONTENT... MINUS ANY PERSONAL BIAS I MAY HAVE HERE... WAS PRETTY SOLID.

TANI-GUCHI'S IMPRES-SIVELY BORING ESSAY.

KUNI-KIDA'S TRIVIA-FILLED STUDY COLUMN.

A COMIC STRIP WRITTEN BY SOME-BODY IN THE MANGA CLUB.

IT WAS SO THICK WE HAD TROUBLE STAPLING IT.

IT WAS SO FUNNY I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT.

THE CRAZY PIECE HAD EVERY SINGLE PERSON THAT READ IT ROLLING ON THE FLOOR LAUGHING.

PAPER: TOUGH LUCK! THE TRAGEDY OF BOY N

ONE PARTICULARLY EXCELLENT SECTION WAS THE ADVENTURE STORY THAT TSURUYA WROTE.

気の毒！
少年Nの悲劇

...THAT TSURUYA-SAN WAS ACTUALLY A GENIUS.

YET AGAIN, I HAD THE SUSPICION...

WE DISTRIBUTED THE WHOLE RUN IN ONE DAY.

ANY COMPLAINTS?

YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR BOTHERING TO REPORT IN.

生徒会室

SIGN: STUDENT COUNCIL

BASA (FWAP)

DO NOT FORGET THAT I HAVE TIME LEFT IN MY TERM.

HOWEVER, CONCERNING THIS "SOS BRIGADE," WE WILL CONTINUE TO IGNORE IT.

A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.

WE'LL APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE LITERATURE CLUB.

BAN (WHAM)

ALL THE RUNNING AROUND HARUHI HAD DONE HAD WORKED AS ACCIDENTAL ADVERTISING FOR THE PROJECT.

AND SO IT WAS THAT WE DISTRIBUTED TWO HUNDRED COPIES WITHOUT ANY PROMOTION AT ALL.

I DIDN'T SEE ANY CHANGE IN HIS EXPRES-SION.

I JUST WANNA BREATHE IT IN!

IT ALWAYS FEELS GOOD TO TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!

DID YOU SEE HIS FACE? HE WAS SO FRUS-TRATED!

HOW CAN THIS BE...?

HOW ...?

THIS. SUZUMIYA-SAN'S MANU-SCRIPT.

I CAN'T TELL YOU THE DETAILS, THEY'RE CLASSIFIED, BUT...

WHAT'S WRONG, ASAHINA-SAN?

"I'M WRITING A PIECE TOO!" HARUHI HAD SAID...

SAVE THE WORLD BY OVER-LOADING IT WITH FUN, NO. 1: A MEMO ON THE PATH TO THE FUTURE

...AND SURE ENOUGH, IN ADDITION TO A HAUGHTY "LETTER FROM THE EDITOR," SHE WROTE A SHORT ESSAY.

IS SOME-THING WRONG WITH IT?

ALTHOUGH ALL I GOT OUT OF IT WAS A BUNCH OF MEANING-LESS PHRASES AND SYMBOLS.

IT WAS HER CONCEPTION OF HOW TO ENSURE THE BRIGADE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY INTO THE FUTURE.

PAPER: WHEN THE QUANTUM ELECTRODYNAMIC EFFECTS OF TIME-SPACE DILATION ARE PROJECTED ONTO AN N-DIMENSIONAL MANIFOLD THUSLY, WE SEE THAT...
SPECIAL RELATIVITY SHOWS HOW LORENTZ TRANSFORMATIONS CAN BE DERIVED VIA THE FOLLOWING EQUATION...

THESE ARE THE FUNDA-MENTALS OF TIME PLANE THEORY.

IN MY TIME, UM...

...THIS IS THE FIRST THING PEOPLE LIKE ME LEARN.

BUT TO THINK IT WAS SUZUMIYA ...

BUT WHO ORIGINATED IT, AND WHEN, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MYSTERY...

SHE WAS HIS STAND-IN TUTOR, AFTER ALL.

THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROFES-SORIAL LAD SHE TUTORED WOULD SEE IT.

HERE'S SOME-THING TO CON-SIDER.

HARUHI WOULD SURELY BRING A COPY OF HER NEWSLETTER HOME.

BUT THEY WERE SURELY NOT THE ONLY ONES.

ASAHINA-SAN AND I HAD ALREADY ENSURED SOME OF THE CONDITIONS FOR HIS FUTURE.

LOOKS LIKE I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION FOR ASAHINA-SAN THE ELDER.

WAS HARUHI HERSELF THE ULTIMATE TRIGGER?

IN ANY CASE, THAT WAS THE END OF THAT PARTICULAR MADNESS.

I'D SAY ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO WAIT FOR SPRING'S ARRIVAL...

...BUT THE YEAR HAD BEEN SO EVENTFUL, THAT WAS HARD TO BE SURE ABOUT.

IT'S THE SAME DAY AS LAST YEAR'S SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

...I'M PUTTING A CIRCLE ON A DAY IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

THIS IS A SECRET, BUT...

IT'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF A DAY HARUHI HERSELF HAS PROBABLY FORGOTTEN.

IT'S THE DAY I MET HARUHI.

BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

FOR NOW, I'M JUST GOING TO TRY TO FINISH OUT THE YEAR WITHOUT ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENING.

SO LONG AS I DON'T LOSE MY MEMORY, THAT IS.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ★ FULL SPEED AHEAD! V : END

BOX: ORANGES

NOW THEN...

SO WHY DO SOME OF OUR CONTRI-BUTORS HAVE NOTHING BUT BLANK PAGES?

WE'RE PLANNING TO COMMENCE DISTRIBUTION TOMORROW.

LET'S GO BACK IN TIME A BIT.

TO THE EVENING OF THE LAST DAY OF THE NEWS-LETTER'S PRO-DUCTION.

AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, THE TIME LEADING UP TO A PRINT DEADLINE IS DIFFICULT INDEED.

WARNING

Welcome to the House of Terror

YOU SHOULD JUST BE THANKFUL YOUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF CAME ALONG.

BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF GOING TO PRINT AND THE CLUB-ROOM'S A MESS.

WHY'RE WE DOING THIS AT MY HOUSE?

DUNNO. COULD TAKE ALL NIGHT.

HOW FAR ALONG IS YOUR PIECE?

HEY, TANI-GUCHI.

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPENING IN YOUR ROOM.

I'VE GOT NO MATER-IAL.

...I WAS WORRIED THAT UP UNTIL YESTERDAY, HE HADN'T WRITTEN A SINGLE THING.

TANIGUCHI'S ASSIGNMENT WAS "A FASCINATING SLICE-OF-LIFE ESSAY."

TALKING TO HIM, IT'S CLEAR THAT HIS LIFE ISN'T THAT FASCINATING, BUT...

I JUST HAVEN'T QUITE TIED MY IDEAS TOGETHER.

MY MANUSCRIPT'S NOT QUITE DONE.

FURU FURU (FWIP)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

KYON, START WORKING ON THE BINDING.

HERE, FOLD THESE.

IT'S A SMALL ROOM, CALM DOWN!

BAN (BANG)

"NOT QUITE DONE" ISN'T THE SAME AS "NOT EVEN STARTED!"

I'M ALMOST FINISHED!

YOU'RE RIDIN' ME, BUT YOU'RE NOT EVEN DONE YOURSELF?

AW, C'MON!

WHAT'S UP?

OH!

GACHA (CLACK)

KYON-KUN!

SO GET THOSE FINGERS TYPING!

HEY, MIYOKICHI. BEEN A WHILE.

YOU! CAME OVER TO PLAY?

CHA (CLICK)

GOOD EVENING.

WHOA, SHE'S HIGH-LEVEL!

KEEP IN MIND ...

...THAT SHE IS JUST TWELVE.

DON (BAM)

KYON'S SISTER'S FRIEND?

DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE GO TO A MOVIE WITH KYON?

HUH?

UM... YES.

SO DON'T GET IN THE WAY.

YUP.

WOW, YOU'RE MAKING BOOKS?

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TODAY, BUT...

UM, WELL ... NOT EXACTLY ...

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK ...

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO? DID YOU COME OVER FOR DIN-NER?

I WANT TO GO... HERE.

SHE'S NOT ASKING YOU

ZUI (ZIP)

LET'S HEAR IT.

AND THIS SCRAP-BOOK IS FILLED WITH STUFF LIKE THAT?

THERE ARE A LOT OF URBAN LEGENDS ABOUT IT.

THEY SAY A WHOLE FAMILY WAS MURDERED THERE.

IT'S A RUN-DOWN HOUSE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

...WHAT'S THIS!?

TALK ABOUT "B" MOVIES... THAT'S A "B" SCRAP-BOOK!

LOOK, HERE ARE THE TICKET STUBS FROM THAT MOVIE.

IT'S LIKE A DIARY FOR ME.

...AND WE HAVEN'T BEEN OUT ON PATROL IN A WHILE...

HMM, WELL ...

IT'LL BE GETTING DARK SOON...

BUT FOR SOME REASON, THAT ONE HOUSE HADN'T BEEN DEMOLISHED, AND WAS JUST ROTTING AWAY.

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO THERE!

THE LAND HAD BEEN PARCELED OUT FOR DEVELOP-MENT AND WAS ALL UNDER CONSTRUC-TION.

EVIDENTLY MIYOKICHI'S HOBBIES INCLUDED B-GRADE MYSTERY SPOTS AS WELL AS B-GRADE MOVIES.

RUMOR HAD IT THE DEAD FAMILY'S SPIRITS STILL HAUNTED IT.

I PRAYED WE WEREN'T LEADING MIYOKICHI TOO FAR ASTRAY. (SHE WAS AWFULLY CUTE, AFTER ALL.)

SURVEIL HOW!?

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SURVEIL SPOTS LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE!

THE NET, SOME-TIMES ...

...OR THE RIGHT SECTION OF THE BOOK-STORE.

SOUNDS INTER-ESTING.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMA-TION?

AW, C'MON...

JUST A BIT FARTHER, ACCORDING TO THE MAP.

THAT ALONE SERVED TO SET THE MOOD PRETTY WELL.

THE AREA WAS SEEMING MORE AND MORE DESERTED.

AH...

PLUS, I COULDN'T GET UP THE COURAGE TO COME ALONE.

I DOUBT ANYONE WOULD BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT

MY PARENTS WOULD NEVER LET ME COME HERE.

THIS PLACE IS FREAKIN' HAUNTED, NO JOKE!

Y-Y-Y-YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME!

IT'S A GRAND MANSION, BUT IT'S FALLEN TOTALLY INTO RUIN!

WE SHOULD NOT BE GOING IN THERE!

YEAH, ME NEITHER!

KYU (T.E)

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

RIGHT!?

SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST TELL SOMEONE FIRST!?

YOU'RE GOING!?

SERI-OUSLY!?

WISH HE'D SHUT UP.

I DON'T WANNA GO EITHER.

BUT NONE OF THE GIRLS ARE HESITATING, SO WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

WHOA...!

IT'S SO B'G!

KO

KO (CLACK)

THIS MUST BE THE LOBBY.

EH?

HEY!

OH!

THE OWNERS MUST'VE BEEN A FAM'LY WITH MEANS.

IT WAS SO DARK OUTSIDE I COULDN'T TELL...

...BUT IF THIS WAS A SINGLE HOME, IT'S HUGE.

HERE TOO.

EIJI... EIJI TSU-KADA.

HE MUST'VE BEEN SOME KID.

THEY'RE AWARD CERTIFI-CATES.

SO MANY OF THEM!

OH, NOTH-ING ...

WHAT'S WRONG?

HERE, LOOK.

THE WEALTHY TSUKADA FAMILY AND THEIR FAVORITE SON...

EIJI... EIJI TSU-KADA ...

TO BE HONEST, UNTIL WE GOT HERE, I HALF-THOUGHT THIS WAS A JOKE...

...BUT NOW THAT A STORY'S COMING TOGETHER, I'M A LITTLE FREAKED OUT.

...THIS WAS A CHILD'S ROOM.

TESTS... TEXT-BOOKS...

IT'S A DIARY.

SO EIJI'S ROOM, THEN.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M STARTING TO DOUBT YOUR CHARAC-TER.

YOU'RE NOT CON-VINCING ME.

HEY, C'MON, YOU SHOULDN'T READ SOMEONE ELSE'S DIARY.

I THINK EVERYONE HERE IS WELL AWARE OF THAT.

YOU CAN'T NOT READ A DIARY IN THIS SORT OF SITUATION.

SORRY, TANIGUCHI, BUT FOR ONCE I AGREE WITH HARUHI.

USE IT FOR MATERIAL FOR YOUR ESSAY.

OF COURSE, THAT'S ASSUMING THAT WHAT'S WRITTEN THERE QUALIFIES AS A "FASCINATING SLICE-OF-LIFE."

I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.

BOTH MOM AND DAD HAVE VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF ME.

DAD YELLED AT ME.

MONTH: XXX
DAY: XX

I PLACED SECOND ON THE EXAM.

I WAS ABLE TO FORGET THE SCOLDING I GOT AFTERWARD.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL DISAPPEAR.

NOR IS THE DUTY THAT'S BEEN LAID ON ME GONE.

MONTH: XXX
DAY: XX

I SKIPPED CLASS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

GOING TO A MOVIE IN THE AFTERNOON IS AWESOME.

PERA (FLIP)

MONTH: XXX DAY: XX

WHEN I WRITE IN MY DIARY AT NIGHT, IT GIVES ME THE ILLUSION THAT I'M THE ONLY PERSON IN THE UNIVERSE.

MOM AND DAD AREN'T THERE.

THERE IS NO ORDER.

MY SPIRIT IS SET FREE...

KA (CLACK)

WHAT THE ?

DA (DASH)

AHGYAAA!?

AAH!

CALM DOWN, TANI-GUCHI!!

I DIDN'T LOOK! I'M NOT LOOKING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

HUH!?

...THE MOVIE DIREC-TOR!

EIJI TSU-KADA!

YOU KNOW ME?

WHO ARE YOU?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M MEETING THE REAL DIRECTOR!

KYA (SQUEAL)

I'M SO MOVED!

SIGNATURE: EIJI TSUKADA

FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HER THIS HAPPY

TWO OF THEM, RIGHT HERE!

THERE SURE ARE!

I'M SURPRISED THERE ARE KIDS LIKE YOU.

YOU'RE SO YOUNG, THOUGH.

TO BE WATCHING MY EARLY WORK...

...IT'D TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN.

AT THIS POINT...

THE DVDs ARE OUT TOO..

HEY, KYON, WHAT'S THIS?

ARE YOU INCLUDING ME IN THAT STATEMENT?

IT REALLY BRINGS B-MOVIE FANS TOGETHER!

IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO SEE *DRAGON HELL.*

I'M SO PLEASED.

THE MOVIE I'D TAKEN MIYOKICHI TO SEE WAS A REVIVAL OF ONE OF THIS GUY'S EARLY WORKS.

IT WAS QUITE A COINCIDENCE.

DIRECTOR EIJI TSUKADA WAS PURSUING HIS OLD LIFE THROUGH THE FRAME OF A DOCUMENTARY.

BUT THIS WASN'T A MOVIE.

WE'D RUN INTO A FILM CREW.

APPARENTLY, HIS FAMILY HAD VACATED THIS HOUSE AND RELOCATED ELSEWHERE.

ONE REASON WAS THAT THANKS TO HIS SUCCESS AS A DIRECTOR, HE DIDN'T NEED TO.

YET EIJI TSUKADA HADN'T SOLD THE PLACE.

IT'S FAKE LUXURY.

LOOK, HERE ...

NORMAL HOUSES DON'T HAVE PILLARS LIKE THIS.

THE OTHER REASON WAS...

THE MOVIES I SAW SOMETIMES WERE MY ONLY ESCAPE.

THIS KIND OF THING WAS SO DEPRESSING TO ME...

THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE LIFE I HAD IN THIS HOUSE.

I REALIZED I ENJOYED THINGS OF A DISORGANIZED NATURE.

IT WAS FUN...

WHEN I COME HERE, I REMEMBER WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH MOVIES.

ALTHOUGH I'VE NEGLECTED IT TOO MUCH...

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T DEMOLISH THIS PLACE.

SO IT'S TO GET THE POWER TO DO THAT.

I'VE ALWAYS GOT TO MAKE THE NEXT THING.

MY OWN PAST.

TO SOUND PRETENTIOUS ABOUT IT, THE PAST ITSELF TEACHES ME.

OKAY!

OF COURSE, THESE DAYS THE PLACE IS STARTING TO LOOK LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF MY MOVIES.

HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!

I THINK I SAID SOME GOOD STUFF.

NOT BAD, EH?

NOT SURE IF THIS IS REALLY "SLICE-OF-LIFE" MATERIAL, BUT YEAH.

FINALLY GOT SOME GOOD MATERIAL!

SWEET, I'M WRITING AN ESSAY ABOUT TODAY!

IT'S OKAY.

I'M GONNA PUT THEM IN MY SCRAP-BOOK.

THESE ARE JUST FOR MY MEMO-RIES.

SO THAT'S THE DEAL.

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GONNA CATCH ANY GHOSTS ON THAT CAMERA.

YOU WANT TO BE A MOVIE DIREC-TOR?

OH NO!

THEY'LL PROBABLY STILL BE AGAINST IT, BUT...

I'M THINKING OF SHOW-ING MY SCRAP-BOOK TO MY PARENTS.

I FIG-URED.

...I HOPE THEY UNDERSTAND THIS SIDE OF ME.

SOMEDAY, I JUST...

...I'LL NEED THE SAME COURAGE THAT HE HAD, I THINK.

BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO BREAK THROUGH MY SHELL...

IT'S HARD TO SUCCEED AS MUCH AS TSUKADA-SAN HAS.

WHAT'S
UP?
I'VE
BEEN
AT LAST
YEAR
LET'S
HEAD
BACK
AND GET
BACK TO
WORK

THE CONTENT... MINUS ANY PERSONAL BIAS I MAY HAVE HERE... WAS PRETTY SOLID.

THE NEWSLETTER WAS FINISHED ON TIME.

THUS OUR NEWSLETTER WAS FINISHED ...

THE TWO HUNDRED COPIES WE PREPARED WERE ALL GONE WITHIN A DAY.

I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REACTION.

AS A SIDE NOTE, TSURUYA'S CONTRIBUTION WAS THE TALK OF THE SCHOOL FOR A WHILE AFTER ITS CIRCULATION.

THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE LITERATURE CLUB WAS ASSURED.

ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT HER LAST FORMULA RESEMBLED THE ARRANGEMENT OF AWARDS ON THE MANSION WALL...

.....

AS USUAL, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND A BIT OF HARUHI'S MANUSCRIPT.

...AFFECTED THE FUTURE.

IT PROBABLY DIDN'T MATTER AT ALL.

...OR THE LITERARY PRODUCT IT INVOLVED...

...I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THAT EVENT...

BUT ACCORDING TO ASAHINA-SAN, THIS PAPER WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIME TRAVEL.

MY OWN PAST... FOR THE FUTURE.

SOMETIMES I THINK BACK ON TSUKADA-SAN'S WORDS...

WHAAAAAAAAAM

...AND I'M WATCHING THAT MOVIE AGAIN.

I WONDER IF MIYOKICHI SHOWED HER SCRAPBOOK TO HER PARENTS.

MY IMPRESSION OF IT HASN'T CHANGED.

IN TEN YEARS, I DOUBT ANYBODY WILL REMEMBER IT.

?

IF SHE EVER DOES, MAYBE I'LL GIVE HER THIS DVD AS A PRESENT. WHY NOT?

I'M SURE SHE'LL WONDER WHY TANIGUCHI'S ESSAY STILL MANAGED TO BE BORING DESPITE THE GREAT MATERIAL.

NO DOUBT THE DEBATE WILL BE LIVELY.

ALONG WITH THE NEWS-LETTER.

WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF TERROR : END

THAT'S WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT IT!!
THIS ISN'T SCARY AT ALL.
BISHI (SMACK)

HARUHI SUZUMIYA WAS BEHAVING HERSELF.

IT WAS AS THOUGH HER AURA HAD DIMMED FROM RED TO ORANGE.

AND IT WORRIED ME.

...SHE HAD BEEN STRANGELY QUIET OF LATE.

NEITHER MELANCHOLY NOR SIGHING...

AMONG HER CLASS-MATES, ONLY A FEW OF THEM HAD NOTICED THE CHANGE IN HER.

TWO AT THE MOST.

AND ONE OF THEM WAS ME.

BOX: SETSUBUN

WHEN HARUHI GOT LIKE THIS, SHE WAS PROBABLY FORMU-LATING SOME SORT OF EVIL SCHEME.

AND ONCE SHE'D HIT UPON IT, HER FACE WOULD LIGHT UP WITH A SMILE.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT MAKES ME LUCKY OR NOT.

THAT WAS BECAUSE SHE'D SAT DIRECTLY BEHIND ME EVER SINCE WE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.

I WAS ONLY GOING TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE SO MUCH.

HMMMMM...

THE MOOD AROUND THE SCHOOL SHIFTED AS THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR DREW CLOSE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS BECAME SCARCER AND SCARCER ...

...AS MOST OF THEM DESCENDED INTO THE HELL OF COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ANNOYING TOPICS LIKE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

I'D MANAGED TO SETTLE UP THE DECEMBER 18TH INCIDENT, AND WE'D FINISHED THE NEWSLETTER, SO...

YOU'VE REPEATEDLY VISITED DECEMBER 18TH.

SO THERE MUST BE TWO DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THAT TIME.

WE'LL REFER TO THAT POINT IN THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 18TH AS X.

X

...AND EVERYONE BECAME A NORMAL PERSON.

KYU

KYU (SQUEAK)

THERE'S THE DAY WHEN THE MALFUNCTIONING NAGATO-SAN CHANGED THE WORLD...

I GOT THE SENSE THAT HE REALLY WANTED TO BE A TIME TRAVELER.

HE CONSTANTLY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF.

WHEN YOU RETURNED TO TIME X FROM TANABATA FOUR YEARS PREVIOUS ...

...IT WAS NO LONGER THE SAME X.

TODAY, I ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO LISTEN TO HIS LECTURE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE CAN'T BE MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF THE SAME TIME.

IF THERE WAS NO TIME X WHERE NAGATO CHANGED THE WORLD, THEN SUZUMIYA'S DISAPPEARANCE WOULD ALSO FAIL TO HAPPEN.

(X)

THE REASON-ING IS QUITE SIMPLE.

I'VE GOT PLENTY OF FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE.

(X)

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A TIME PARADOX.

LIKEWISE, ANY REASON YOU WOULD'VE HAD TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST.

OTHER-WISE THIS TIMELINE WOULD NOT EXIST.

SOME-BODY, PLEASE SHUT HIM UP.

BUT YOU DID GO, AND YOU DID REPAIR IT.

IF YOU HADN'T, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE STAYED CHANGED.

BUT A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR RETURNING THIS WORLD TO ITS PREVIOUS STATE WAS YOU TRAVELING INTO THE PAST.

SHU (SHUP)

NOW, FROM THIS X...

TSUU (SHHT)

SAY THIS VERTICAL LINE REPRESENTS THE FLOW OF TIME FROM PAST TO FUTURE.

YOU USED THE ESCAPE PROGRAM TO TRAVEL BACK TO THE TANABATA FOUR YEARS EARLIER, THEN JUMPED BACK TO DECEMBER 18TH.

THE CIRCLE IS THE HISTORY THAT YOU REMEMBER SINCE DECEMBER 18TH.

BUT YOU AND ASAHINA, COMING FROM THE FUTURE ...

...MANAGED TO PUT THE WORLD RIGHT.

YOU SAVED YOURSELVES.

EXCEPT RYOUKO ASAKURA WAS THERE.

IF NAGATO HAD BEEN REPAIRED AT THAT MOMENT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE.

KYU

KYU

FROM WHICH THE WORLD IS NOW CONTINUING.

WHERE YOU TRAVELED THROUGH TIME TO SAVE YOURSELF.

KYU (SQUEAK)

AND THAT IS THIS POINT.

SO DO YOU SEE THAT THERE ARE TWO POINTS X?

THERE'S POINT X, WHERE THE WORLD WAS CHANGED, AND ANOTHER POINT WHERE IT WAS CHANGED AGAIN...

...WE'LL CALL IT X'.

I SEE.

EVEN WITH MY MATH ALLERGY, I SORTA SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOU CAN THINK OF THEM AS BEING SUPER-IMPOSED.

SO THE ORIGINAL X HAS NOT BEEN ERASED.

WITHOUT X, THERE CAN BE NO X'.

THE SECOND X MOSTLY HIDES THE FIRST X.

SUPER-IMPOSED, OR OVER-WRITTEN.

I DO NOT EVEN REMOTELY UNDER-STAND.

AN EVEN LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX SPACE-TIME QUAKE.

BUT IT HASN'T DISAP-PEARED COM-PLETELY.

IT'S STILL THERE.

I'M LISTENING.

BE MY GUEST.

MAY I EXPLAIN?

THERE IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY.

...AND WERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR THREE DAYS.

YOU FELL DOWN THE STAIRS ON DECEMBER 18TH...

THE MEMORY YOU LACK BUT WHICH WE HAVE...

...THAT TIME DIDN'T EXIST?

WHAT IF UP UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU AWOKE ON THE 21ST...

THOSE DAYS MAY NOT ACTUALLY HAVE EXISTED.

THERE MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN SUCH A TIME.

THE MEMORIES SUZUMIYA AND I HAVE OF THOSE THREE DAYS MAY BE FABRICATED...

...AND WE WERE SIMPLY MADE TO HOLD THEM ON THE NIGHT OF THE 21ST.

IT'S POSSIBLE THIS ENTIRE WORLD WAS CREATED FIVE MINUTES AGO.

...THEN THREE DAYS WERE NOTHING.

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO REWRITE AN ENTIRE YEAR...

BUT I COULDN'T.

I WANTED TO CLAIM IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE.

REALLY?

WHO WOULD PUSH ME DOWN THE STAIRS?

BY THE WAY ...

...WE NOW KNOW WHO THE "MYSTERY GIRL" SUZUMIYA-SAN SAW WAS.

NAGATO-SAN.

NAGATO-SAN DIDN'T DIRECTLY SHOVE YOU FROM BEHIND.

YES.

THAT'S WHAT WE REMEMBER.

THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

SHE WAS WITH YOU, WASN'T SHE?

IN REALITY, THERE WAS NO CULPRIT.

BUT NAGATO WAS THE ONE WHO CREATED THE TIMELINE IN WHICH YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.

SHE RECOGNIZED THAT SOMEONE HAD TO BE BEHIND ALL THIS.

BUT SUZUMIYA STILL FELT SOMETHING AMISS.

BUT SHE DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS NAGATO-SAN.

SUZUMIYA UNCONSCIOUSLY REALIZED THAT.

A PHANTOM GIRL WHO NEVER REALLY EXISTED.

THAT RECOGNITION MANIFESTED AS THE FORM OF A GIRL.

THAT SOMEONE WAS DOING SOMETHING ...

...OR HAD DONE IT.

SHE COULD CERTAINLY ALTER A FEW MEMORIES.

YET HARUHI HAD REALIZED THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG.

NAGATO COULD CHANGE THE WORLD.

HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS THE ANSWERS.

IT'S JUST A THEORY.

A HYPOTHESIS CREATED TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

BUT ASAHINA-SAN CAME FROM THE FUTURE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING HERE.

I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT TIME CONSTRUCTION AND MOVEMENT.

IT'S A PRACTICAL QUESTION.

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ...

...INTO THE PAST...

SO HERE IS MY QUESTION.

...WOULD YOU DO IT?

...AND THEREBY AVERT SOME DISASTER...

I THOUGHT BACK OVER MY EXPER-IENCES.

WHEN I'D JUMPED TO THEN, OR THEN...

...WHAT IF I'D TOLD MY PAST SELF EVERY-THING THAT HARUHI WAS GOING TO DO?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

BEATS ME.

GOOD LUCK, SELF.

THAT HAD GOTTEN ME THIS FAR, SO I WAS GOING TO STICK WITH IT.

WHEN OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THAT CAME UP, MY BODY MOVED WITHOUT THINKING.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING!

BAN CWHAMO

UM, WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

WHEW, IT'S COLD!

THE SNACK SHOP NEARBY DIDN'T HAVE THIS STUFF, SO I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY BACK DOWN THE HILL.

SETSUBUN MEANS BEAN-THROWING AND EATING EHOMAKI!

TODAY IS SETSU-BUN.

DIDN'T YOU CELE-BRATE IT WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

ARE YOU SAYING YOU BOUGHT THIS STUFF WITHOUT KNOWING THAT?

DOSA (FWUMP)

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

IT'S FOR SETSU-BUN! SETSU-BUN!

JUST A SCRIBBLE.

NO, IT'S NOT.

WHAT IS IT?

YEAH RIGHT.

WHAT'S THAT, A BER-NOULLI CURVE?

LOCAL TRADITIONS HAVE A RIGHT TO GET SOME RESPECT TOO.

WE CAN'T ONLY CELEBRATE FOREIGN HOLIDAYS.

EHOMAKI DEFINITELY COUNTS AS A REGIONAL TRADITION.

THE SOS BRIGADE WAS FAST BECOMING THE SEASONAL OBSERVATION SOCIETY.

I MEAN, OTHER-WISE IT'S JUST A WASTE!

WE'D MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

WE'RE GONNA PAY ATTEN-TION TO SEA-SONAL HOLIDAYS.

THE BIRDS CAN EAT 'EM!

...ONTO THE COURT-YARD BELOW?

OKAY, GOOD-FORTUNE GIRLS, HAVE AT IT!

WE CAN DO IT ANY-WHERE.

HOW ABOUT TOSSING THEM OUT OF THE TOP FLOOR HALLWAY'S WINDOWS ...

SO WHERE ARE YOU GONNA TOSS THE BEANS?

BOX: FORTUNE

GOOD LUCK, IN!

PA (TOSS)

TH-THERE!

...CRAP.

O-OKAY!

開運

開運

I SHOULD'VE HAD MIKURU DRESS LIKE A SHRINE MAIDEN—WE COULD'VE MADE SOME MONEY THAT WAY.

PARARA (SCATTER)

EVEN A HUNDRED YEN A POP WOULD'VE NETTED QUITE A BIT.

GOOD LUCK, IN!

GOOD LUCK, IN!

PA

PA

GOOD LUCK, IN!

PORO (DROP)

PORO

PORO

... LET'S MAKE IT FIVE HUN-DRED A POP.

BJWA (LUNGE)

GOOD LUCK, IN!!

BAA (BOOSH)

GOOD LUCK, IN!

GOOD LUCK, IN!

HEY, WHAT ABOUT "DEMONS, OUT?"

I TOTALLY WOULD'VE GONE RIGHT OVER TO THE RED DEMON'S HOUSE FOR TEA AND SNACKS.

I CRIED MY EYES OUT AT THAT STORY.

AFTER I READ "THE RED DEMON WHO CRIED," I DECIDED IF I EVER DID SEE A REAL DEMON, I'D WANT TO BE NICE TO IT.

OH, I FORGOT TO MEN-TION.

I STICK TO JUST SAYING "GOOD LUCK, IN."

CHASING DEMONS AWAY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!

GOT THAT? IF YOU EVER RUN INTO THE BLUE DEMON, YOU BETTER BE NICE TO HIM.

THE SOS BRIGADE IS OPEN TO ALL, EVEN NON-HUMANS!

PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGI-NATION.

I WON-DERED IF HARUHI'S PHRASE "EVEN NON-HUMANS" TOUCHED NAGATO'S HEART.

YOU CAN'T SAY A WORD UNTIL YOU'RE DONE EATING, GOT IT?

WE RETURNED TO THE CLUB-ROOM TO DO...THIS.

FACE THIS DIRECTION!

ARMBAND: BRIGADE CHIEF

I SURE HOPE WE'RE NOT HAVING THE SAME THING FOR DINNER

もくもく もくもく

THE REMAINING BEANS WERE EMPTIED INTO A BOWL AND WASHED DOWN WITH TEA.

I NEVER REALIZED YOU COULD GET SO FULL ON SETSU-BUN.

FUKYUU (MMMPH)

ASA-HINA-SAN HELD HERS DAINTILY IN BOTH HANDS LIKE A SMALL WOOD-LAND CREA-TURE.

SFX: MOKU (MUNCH) MOKU MOKU MOKU

I WAS SURE THIS WOULD RETURN HARUHI'S SPIRITS TO NORMAL...

...BUT FOR SOME REASON, THE NEXT DAY SHE WAS STILL SUBDUED.

AND IT FELT LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED THE CHANGE.

IT WAS WEIRD.

BUT I COULDN'T VERY WELL PAY CONSTANT ATTENTION TO HARUHI.

EVEN KOIZUMI, THE SELF-PROCLAIMED HARUHI EXPERT, MISSED IT.

AND UNLIKE HARUHI'S SHIFT IN MOOD, THIS ONE WAS A THING YOU COULD SEE WITH YOUR OWN TWO EYES.

BECAUSE SOMETHING MUCH MORE OBVIOUSLY STRANGE HAPPENED.

YO...!

IT HAPPENED ONE EVENING, A FEW DAYS AFTER SETSUBUN.

UGH, SO COLD.

NOBODY'S HERE.

KI (CREAK)

OO

KOTON (CLUNK)

コトン

...

KNOCK IF OFF.

WHAT'S THAT?

BA (WHAM)

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF...

I'M AT SCHOOL, AND THE SUN'S NOT EVEN DOWN YET.

...HUH?

YOU WAITED FOR ME!

OH, KYON-KUN!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THERE?

UM... WHAT?

UM, SO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?

THIS IS SUCH A RELIEF.

THANK GOOD-NESS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

I'M QUITE SURE YOU SAID...

ER... THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE, RIGHT?

NO ...!

WHOA!?

KO

WH... WHA?

KO (CLACK)

KO

BATAN (SLAM)

-OH!

...BUT THE STOVE IS ON...AND THERE'S KYON'S BAG.

HUH? NOBODY'S HERE...

Shh ...!

MAYBE HE WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM.

Be quiet, Kyon-kun.

...AND NOW THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE IN HERE...

MUGYUU (SQUISH)

ONE PERSON SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CRAM HIMSELF INTO A BROOM CLOSET...

...AND THIS SITU-ATION ...

Do. Not. Look.

GUK! (JERK)

HA (GASP)

SHU (SWSH)

BUT WHICH ONE OF THEM IS THE REAL ONE?

FOR THE SAME PERSON TO OCCUPY THE SAME PLACE TWICE...

IF ONE OF THEM WERE THE ADULT VERSION, THAT'D BE OKAY.

THAT'S HAPPENED A FEW TIMES.

THERE ARE TWO ASAHINAS!

WHICH ASAHINA-SAN ARE YOU?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT IS THIS?

...TIME TRAVEL!

What is it that I'm supposed to know?

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT TOLD ME TO GO TO THIS TIME!

OH, NAGATO-SAN.

NAGATO-SAN?

WAIT JUST A MOMENT.

I'LL PUT ON SOME TEA!

THE INTRIGUES OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA I : END

Translation Notes

Page 69
Kanbei Kuroda, also known as Yoshitaka Kuroda, was a warlord in the late warring states period in Japan. He was the head strategist under Hideyoshi Toyotomi, who was the first man to unify all of Japan under a single rule.

Page 156
Setsubun is celebrated in Japan on February 3rd and is considered the first holiday of spring. In order to secure good fortune for the year, families once dressed up a single member in a demon mask, then threw beans at him or her while crying, "Demon, out! Good luck, in!" before closing the door. This ritual is now more commonly done at temples rather than homes.

Ehomaki, literally "auspicious direction rolls," are a type of sushi roll that it is considered good luck to eat on Setsubun. The correct ehomaki-eating procedure involves facing in that year's auspicious direction (as determined by the Taoist reckoning and the zodiac symbol of the year) and eating the entire uncut roll in one bite, eyes closed, while silently contemplating one's hopes and wishes for the upcoming year. Ehomaki is a tradition mostly limited to the Kansai region of Japan, which includes Kobe, the city in which North High School is situated.

Page 158
Fukumusume, or "good-fortune girls," are a part of some Setsubun festivals. Their role primarily involves dressing in shrine maiden-like outfits and handing out (or selling) good-luck charms.

Page 160
Haruhi is referencing a famous children's story, "Naita Akaoni," "The Red Demon Who Cried" or "The Red Ogre Who Cried." In the story, the red demon wishes to befriend the local children but is unable to convince them that he is friendly. So his friend the blue demon comes up with a plan: He will pretend to terrorize the children, and the red demon will step in and "rescue" them. The plan goes exactly as intended, and the red demon is able to play with the grateful children. However, because the blue demon has allowed himself to be perceived as a monster for the sake of his friend's wish, he and the red demon cannot let the children find out that they are friends. And so the blue demon goes far away, leaving only a letter behind for the red demon. Upon discovering his friend's letter, the red demon weeps.

NAGATO SPEAKS HER MIND FOR THE FIRST TIME!

AND THE SAME DAY, A MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE COMES FOR KYON!

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THOSE EIGHT DAYS!?

TO HIDE THIS NEW MIKURU, THEY GO TO NAGATO.
BUT THIS MIKURU DOES NOT SEEM VERY PLEASED...

NAGATO IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS... BUT WAIT! SOMETHING HAS CHANGED!?

THE RIDDLES ONLY DEEPEN DURING THE "INTRIGUES!"

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

13

Original Story: Nagaru Tanigawa
Manga: Gaku Tsugano
Character Design: Noizi Ito

Translation: Paul Starr
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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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